



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. HOW DOES 1948 TOBACCO PRODUCTION COMPARE WITH 1947?
2. IS THE 1948 PER ACRE YIELD OF LINT COTTON HIGHER THAN 1944?
3. DID THE ESTIMATED TOTAL PRODUCTION OF COTTON DECLINE IN DECEMBER?
4. HOW DOES THE PRODUCTION OF ALL HAY IN 1948 COMPARE WITH 1947?
5. WHAT CROPS SHOWED INCREASES IN ACRES HARVESTED IN 1948 OVER 1947?
6. HOW DOES CORN PRODUCTION IN U. S. IN 1948 COMPARE WITH 1947?
7. DID MOST PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS INCREASE OR DECREASE IN 1948?
8. WHY DID THE PRODUCTION OF LESPEDEZA SEED INCREASE IN 1948?
9. HOW DOES THE PRESENT NUMBER OF LAYERS ON FARMS COMPARE WITH 1947?
10. WHAT WAS THE AVERAGE POUNDS OF MILK PRODUCED PER COW IN NOVEMBER?

No. 27

RALEIGH, N. C.

DECEMBER 22, 1948

DECEMBER 1, 1948 GENERAL FARM REPORT

WEATHER-CROP 1948 SEASON

The 1948 season, except for dry weather in June and July was generally favorable for crop production.

Unfavorable weather during the fall of 1947 made conditions very difficult for seeding small grains. As a result, the planted acreage of most small grains was far short of intentions. The 1948 spring planting season opened a little late in some areas, however, soil moisture supplies were favorable for seedbed preparation, planting and seed germination.

In most areas crops came up to good stands and were showing excellent progress until July when soil moisture supplies began to give out. Rains around the middle of July were scattered and localized, but brought relief to many needy areas. However, in East Central Coastal and Western Piedmont Counties the lack of rains began showing on crop growth. The last week of July brought fairly good rains to most Piedmont Counties, but some East Central Counties continued to suffer.

The influence of weather on crops reached a critical point about the middle of July when tobacco was "buttoning" out and corn was tasseling. The high temperatures and low moisture supplies caught considerable corn in the tasseling stage causing some "blasting" before full emergence of silk. This resulted in poor fertilization in many Central Coastal, Southern and Western Piedmont Counties. Rains came in time to prevent heavy losses in tobacco yields.

The fall harvesting season, with few exceptions, was almost ideal until about the middle of November when general rains began to fall. Intermittent rains since this date have caused some delay in harvesting of corn, peanuts, soybeans and other late maturing crops. Most hay crops were put up under ideal conditions. The weather was excellent for the harvesting of cotton, most of which was picked before the wet season began.

GOOD TOBACCO CROP

Production of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina in 1948 totaled 746,300,000 pounds. This production is 17.8 percent below 1947 but 14 percent above 1937-46 average.

At the time tobacco beds were seeded for the 1948 crop, growers had not planned for a 27.52 percent reduction in allotment. Hence, the supply of plants was more than sufficient except in a few scattered areas. Soil moisture conditions were generally favorable during the planting season and most growers had average or better stands.

Generally, tobacco grew rapidly until late June when lack of moisture began having a telling influence on East Central and Central Piedmont Counties. In these areas the crop "buttoned" out low and up until mid-July many growers did not think yields would much more than cover production expenses. However, just as harvest neared in Type 12 and 13 Belts, rain fell over most of the flue-cured area. The crop responded readily to favorable weather conditions and made amazing improvement during the last half of July.

PEANUT CROP TURNED OUT GOOD

North Carolina produced a 350 million pound peanut crop this year, compared with the 301 million pound crop of 1947. Yields averaged 1,225 pounds per acre - 195 pounds more than average yields in 1947.

Most of the state's peanut acreage was planted by the first week of June. Soil moisture supplies were favorable for seed germination and early plant development. Open weather permitted growers to control grass and weeds. Dry conditions prevailed throughout the heavy peanut producing area from mid-July to early in October. This condition reduced pegging in some counties. Digging was completed about on schedule and under favorable conditions. Picking operations have been delayed by frequent rains since the latter part of November.

COTTON PROSPECTS DOWN

A cotton crop of 680,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight is forecast for North Carolina on the basis of reports from ginner and growers around December 1. This is 10,000 bales below the November 1 forecast. The present estimate of production for 1948 is 50 percent larger than the 1947 crop and 17 percent larger than the 10-year average production. Approximately 88 percent of the crop had been ginned to December 1. The past month was the wettest November of record and cotton still in fields was damaged considerably.

The yield of lint per acre in 1948, computed at 454 pounds, equals the record yield of 1944, is 119 pounds above 1947 and 99 pounds above the 10-year average.

The 1948 season was very favorable for the production of cotton. The hot-dry weather from mid-June to mid-July was almost ideal for cotton, although the growth of some other crops was retarded. The early fall was also favorable for picking cotton and a large part of the crop was harvested with little or no damage from wet weather.

HAY CROPS

The production of "all hay" in North Carolina during 1948 is estimated at 1,284,000 tons. This compares with 1,250,000 tons produced in 1947. The increased production in 1948 is due to higher yields per acre since the total acreage harvested was slightly less this year. The yield of alfalfa hay remained the same in both years. Hay crops showing increased yields per acre were lespedeza, peanuts, small grains, and other hay. Generally, the 1948 season was favorable for the production of hay crops. Some of the second cutting of alfalfa hay was damaged or lost the last of July due to frequent rains. In some areas dry weather and army worms reduced soybean hay yields. The fall season was favorable for harvesting hays.

ANNUAL SUMMARY - ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS 1947 AND PRELIMINARY 1948

CROP	UNIT	ACREAGE HARVESTED			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			SEASON AV. PRICE REC'D BY FARMERS		VALUE OF PRODUCTION 1/	
		AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
NORTH CAROLINA		THOUSAND ACRES						THOUSANDS			DOLLARS		1,000 DOLLARS	
GENERAL CROPS								NORTH CAROLINA						
ALL CORN.....	BU.	2,334	2,182	2,226	21.8	31.5	31.0	50,787	68,733	69,006	2.00	1.50	137,466	103,509
CORN, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	2,277	2,123	2,150	21.8	31.5	31.0	49,541	66,874	66,650	2.00	1.50	133,748	99,975
CORN, FOR SILAGE.....	TON	16	15	16	8.5	9.2	10.5	138	138	168	-	-	-	-
CORN, FOR FORAGE.....	-	41	44	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHEAT.....	BU.	460	482	390	14.3	17.0	15.5	6,567	8,194	6,045	2.39	2.30	19,584	13,904
OATS, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	288	386	270	25.9	29.5	29.5	7,593	11,387	7,965	1.03	1.05	11,729	8,363
BARLEY, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	28	43	34	23.0	28.0	23.5	665	1,204	799	1.61	1.70	1,938	1,358
RYE, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	43	24	22	10.1	14.0	12.5	422	336	275	2.65	2.30	890	632
SORGHUMS, FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	-	7	21	-	25.0	22.0	-	175	462	1.70	1.15	298	531
SORGO SIRUP.....	GAL.	12	13	10	67.0	73.0	68.0	790	949	680	2.00	1.90	1,898	1,292
COTTON, LINT.....	LB.	789	647	718	355.0	335.0	454.0	2/ 582	2/ 452	2/ 680	.3259	.3090	73,644	105,060
COTTONSEED.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	237	177	274	80.40	61.00	14,231	16,714
TOBACCO, ALL.....	LB.	652.3	792.6	604	999.0	1,145	1,236	654,807	907,181	746,300	.420	.504	380,848	375,899
TYPE 11.....	LB.	251.9	302	233	928.0	1,060	1,180	235,771	320,120	274,940	.401	-	128,368	-
TYPE 12.....	LB.	318	387	290	1,039	1,205	1,260	331,146	466,335	365,400	.431	-	200,990	-
TYPE 13.....	LB.	73.6	94	71	1,044	1,125	1,260	77,160	105,750	89,460	.427	-	45,155	-
TYPE 31.....	LB.	8.8	9.6	10	1,181	1,560	1,650	10,731	14,976	16,500	.423	-	6,335	-
IRISH POTATOES.....	BU.	86	68	71	107	130	148	9,145	8,840	10,508	1.59	1.60	14,056	16,813
SWEETPOTATOES.....	BU.	75	59	49	104	115	115	7,823	6,785	5,635	2.21	2.30	14,995	12,960
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	LB.	149.6	160	150	206	210	240	30,966	33,600	36,000	.143	.121	4,805	4,356
HAY CROPS														
ALL HAY.....	TON	1,199	1,258	1,230	.98	.99	1.04	1,176	1,250	1,284	28.40	30.00	35,500	38,520
ALFALFA.....	TON	9	26	39	2.00	2.35	2.35	19	61	92	-	-	-	-
CLOVER & TIMOTHY.....	TON	72	84	86	1.10	1.15	1.10	80	97	95	-	-	-	-
LESPEDEZA.....	TON	407	535	503	1.09	1.05	1.10	445	562	553	-	-	-	-
SOYBEANS.....	TON	190	144	137	1.10	1.15	1.10	208	166	151	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS.....	TON	112	29	23	.86	1.00	.85	97	29	20	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS.....	TON	245	251	259	.64	.60	.70	155	151	181	-	-	-	-
GRAINS.....	TON	77	85	81	1.04	1.00	1.05	80	85	85	-	-	-	-
OTHER HAY.....	TON	86	104	102	1.08	.95	1.05	93	99	107	-	-	-	-
SORGHUM FORAGE.....	TON	15	14	14	1.94	2.15	2.25	30	30	32	20.50	19.00	615	608
LEGUMES														
SOYBEANS:														
GROWN ALONE.....	BU.	362	380	384	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED.....	BU.	404	229	208	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....	BU.	564	494	488	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARVESTED FOR BEANS.....	BU.	203	233	264	11.5	15.0	13.5	2,333	3,495	3,564	3.00	2.35	10,485	8,375
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER.....	BU.	172	117	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COWPEAS:														
GROWN ALONE.....	BU.	150	55	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED.....	BU.	304	85	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....	BU.	302	98	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HARVESTED FOR PEAS.....	BU.	65	22	22	4.8	5.0	6.0	310	110	132	5.21	5.40	573	713
GRAZED OR PLOWED UNDER.....	BU.	124	47	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PEANUTS:														
GROWN ALONE.....	BU.	285	311	305	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
INTERPLANTED.....	BU.	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EQUIVALENT SOLID.....	BU.	286	312	306	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PICKED & THRESHED.....	LB.	268	292	286	1,153	1,030	1,225	308,260	300,760	350,350	.110	.111	33,084	38,889
FRUITS & NUTS														
APPLES, COM'L CROP.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,065	768	976	2.20	2.00	1,690	1,952
PEACHES, TOTAL CROP.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,131	2,905	1,646	1.45	2.65	4,212	4,362
PEARS.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	302	298	209	1.80	2.00	536	418
GRAPES.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.3	5.6	5.6	180	176.00	1,008	986
PECANS, ALL.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,576	2,040	2,752	.32	.193	652	532
IMPROVED.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,298	1,734	2,450	.33	.20	572	490
SEEDLINGS.....	LB.	-	-	-	-	-	-	278	306	302	.26	.14	80	42
UNITED STATES								UNITED STATES						
CORN, ALL.....	BU.	89,616	83,932	85,439	31.4	28.4	42.7	2,813,529	2,383,970	3,650,548	2.16	1.36	5,145,345	4,980,943
WHEAT, ALL.....	BU.	58,832	74,389	71,904	16.1	18.4	17.9	942,623	1,367,186	1,288,406	2.29	2.05	3,128,587	2,640,695
OATS.....	BU.	38,056	38,451	40,191	32.3	31.2	37.1	1,231,814	1,199,422	1,491,752	1.05	.77	1,257,043	1,148,520
BARLEY.....	BU.	12,615	11,014	12,046	23.7	25.5	26.3	298,811	281,185	317,037	1.70	1.21	477,828	382,326
RYE.....	BU.	3,055	2,010	2,097	12.1	12.9	12.6	37,398	25,975	26,388	2.26	1.53	58,731	40,268
BUCKWHEAT.....	BU.	416	518	337	16.9	14.2	18.8	7,022	7,334	6,324	1.90	1.21	13,908	7,664
COTTON, LINT.....	LB.	22,631	21,269	23,003	254.2	267.3	311.5	2/12,014	2/11,857	2/14,937	.3193	.309	1,892,528	2,310,126
COTTONSEED.....	TON	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,947	4,681	6,036	85.90	67.80	402,015	409,452
HAY, ALL.....	TON	73,018	75,489	73,616	1.34	1.36	1.36	97,563	102,765	99,846	17.60	19.00	1,809,234	1,895,983
HAY, WILD.....	TON	12,966	14,820	14,947	.88	.91	.86	11,437	13,479	12,848	-	-	-	-
SORGHUM FOR GRAIN.....	BU.	6,221	5,629	7,298	15.7	17.1	18.0	99,791	96,016	131,644	1.83	1.20	175,947	158,012
SORGHUM FOR FORAGE.....	TON	8,431	4,871	5,144	1.42	1.25	1.48	11,975	6,078	7,616	17.30	15.60	105,236	118,765
SORGHUM FOR SILAGE.....	TON	858	669	633	5.74	5.15	7.19	4,969	3,448	4,549	-	-	-	-
LESPEDEZA SEED.....	LB.	809	732	975	205	204	248	167,695	149,760	241,560	.119	.093	17,770	22,436
SOYBEANS FOR BEANS.....	BU.	7,162	11,212	10,311	18.8	16.4	21.4	134,642	183,558	220,201	3.34	2.39	612,209	525,784
COWPEAS FOR PEAS.....	BU.	1,117	587	531	5.3	5.9	6.4	5,854	3,466	3,416	4.94	4.71	17,139	16,088
PEANUTS FOR NUTS.....	LB.	2,534	3,380	3,214	708	646	706	1,750,704	2,182,895	2,268,110	.101	.106	220,360	240,703
POTATOES.....	BU.	2,826	2,101	2,099	139.3	185.2	212.4	392,143	389,048	445,850	1.62	1.53	628,646	680,105
SWEETPOTATOES.....	BU.	728	594	514	89.2	93.9	96.9	54,866	55,746	49,806	2.17	2.19	120,879	108,845
TOBACCO: FLUE CURED.....	LB.	955	1,161	883	985.0	1,135	1,225	944,809	1,317,466	1,081,034	.412	-	542,823	-
ALL TYPES.....	LB.	1,644	1,845	1,538	1,008.0	1,143	1,234	1,664,265	2,109,581	1,897,926	.435	.490	917,181	929,646
SORGO SIRUP.....	GAL.	191	161	110	60.0	61.1	69.3	11,437	9,845	7,625	1.76	1.66	17,356	12,676
APPLES, COMMERCIAL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	115,058	113,041	90,288	1.78	2.13	193,044	191,944
PEACHES, ALL.....	BU.	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,725	82,270	65,749	1.67	2.06	134,889	135,008

NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL TRUCK CROPS

1947 AND PRELIMINARY 1948

CROPS AND UNITS	ACREAGE HARVESTED 1/			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION			PRICE		VALUE 2/	
	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
	- ACRES -						- THOUSANDS -			- DOLLARS -		- 1000 DOLLARS -	
FOR FRESH MARKET:													
LIMA BEANS.....BU.	1,090	300	300	46	60	80	51	18	24	3.10	2.00	56	48
SNAP BEANS, ALL.....BU.	11,051	13,680	11,800	78	102	91	869	3/1,392	1,076	1.38	2.62	1,639	2,820
LATE SPRING.....BU.	6,420	5,100	5,400	66	85	80	3/403	3/434	432	1.55	2.75	606	1,188
LATE SUMMER, WEST.....BU.	4/ 5,180	7,680	5,400	4/98	120	110	3/4/499	3/922	594	1.30	2.60	983	1,544
EARLY FALL.....BU.	920	900	1,000	60	40	50	3/54	3/36	50	1.40	1.75	50	88
BEETS.....BU.	220	250	250	212	165	170	3/49	3/41	42	1.70	2.25	61	94
CABBAGE ALL.....TONS	7,199	7,600	8,300	5.5	5.6	6.8	3/40.9	42.6	56.7	56.29	32.31	2,398	1,761
LATE SPRING.....TONS	1,600	1,700	2,000	5.0	4.5	6.0	3/8.0	7.6	12.0	83.20	35.30	632	346
LATE SUMMER, WEST.....TONS	4,190	3,600	3,800	6.2	7.5	7.5	25.9	27.0	28.5	41.70	33.00	1,126	940
LATE FALL.....TONS	1,610	2,300	2,500	5.0	3.5	6.5	7.7	8.0	16.2	80.00	29.30	640	475
CANTALOUPE.....70 LB. CRT.	5,330	5,100	4,800	61	50	50	326	255	240	1.75	2.45	446	588
CUCUMBERS.....BU.	4,250	7,400	6,700	72	80	80	304	592	536	1.75	1.70	1,036	911
LETTUCE.....WEST CRT.	1,340	1,200	1,300	95	60	123	3/126	72	3/160	4.50	4.90	324	735
GREEN PEAS.....BU.	1,750	100	100	60	50	50	3/107	5	5	1.60	3.50	8	18
GREEN PEPPERS.....BU.	2,340	3,300	3,400	161	125	140	369	412	476	1.35	2.00	556	952
EARLY IRISH POTATOES.....BU.	35,650	29,000	31,000	144	170	210	5,126	4,930	6,510	1.50	1.60	7,395	10,416
STRAWBERRIES.....24 QT. CRT.	4,570	2,400	2,300	86	60	85	3/409	144	196	7.35	8.45	1,058	1,656
TOMATOES.....BU.	1,090	300	650	68	75	70	3/77	22	46	1.95	2.30	43	106
WATERMELONS.....MELON	9,840	9,900	10,000	217	225	230	2,125	2,228	2,300	.180	.340	401	782
FOR PROCESSING													
SNAP BEANS.....TON	1,670	1,200	1,100	1.3	1.3	1.4	2.0	1.6	1.5	88.00	164.50	141	247
CUCUMBERS.....BU.	5,840	7,400	6,800	79	87	72	461	644	490	1.60	1.85	1,030	960

1/ Acreage for harvest includes any partially harvested or not harvested because of low prices or other economic factors.

2/ Values are for the marketing season or crop year and should not be confused with calendar year income.

3/ Includes some quantities not marketed and excluded in computing value: Snap Beans, late spring -- 43,000 in 1947, late summer -- 186,000 in 1947; Beets, spring -- 5,000 in 1947; Cabbage, late spring -- 2,200 in 1948; Lettuce, early spring -- 10,000 in 1948.

4/ 9-year average, 1938-46.

CORN CROP REDUCED BY DRY WEATHER

Final reports from North Carolina corn producers indicate a 1948 corn crop of 69,006,000 bushels. This estimate is below earlier expectations, but still above the revised estimate of the 1947 crop of 68,733,000 bushels and 36 percent above average. Growers harvested 2,226,000 acres of corn this year which was 2 percent more than in 1947.

The 1948 corn crop was planted under generally favorable conditions and grew rapidly until about the middle of June when high temperatures and low moisture supplies began retarding plant development. Much of the corn, at this time, was in the tasseling stage and "blasting" resulted before full emergence of silks was general. This caused pollenization to be very uneven. As harvesting got underway in the state it became evident that dry weather damage was much greater and wider spread than expected. In the areas of heavy damage, plants produced normal sized husks, but a large proportion of them were poorly filled. Current estimated yield for the 1948 crop is 31.0 bushels.

Harvesting of the 1948 crop was well advanced in all sections of the state by November 1. On the other hand very little of the 1947 crop had been harvested by this date due to the unusually wet fall experienced last year. Later reports on the 1947 crop showed that final yields were above the preliminary estimate. Thus, 1947 yields have been revised upward to 31.5 bushels per acre.

IRISH POTATO CROP GOOD

The 1948 production of all Irish potatoes in North Carolina amounted to 10,508,000 bushels. This was the

fourth highest production of record and compares with 8,840,000 bushels produced in 1947 and the 10-year average of 9,145,000 bushels. The per acre yield of 148 bushels exceeded that of all previous years, except for 1946. Although the planting of commercial early potatoes was delayed a week to ten days due to wet soils, conditions during the growing season were more favorable than usual.

A total of 71,000 acres of Irish potatoes were harvested in 1948 compared with 68,000 acres in 1947 and the 10-year average of 86,000 acres. The commercial early acreage accounted for 44 percent or 31,000 acres of the total acreage harvested in 1948. The commercial crop yielded 210 bushels per acre, or the second highest yield of record, and accounted for 62 percent of all Irish potatoes produced.

SMALLEST SWEETPOTATO CROP IN 24 YEARS

Sweetpotato production in North Carolina, estimated at 5,635,000 bushels during 1948, is the lowest since 1924. This year's low production was due almost entirely to a downward trend in acreage that has been developing since 1932, with rather sharp acreage reductions since World War II.

A total of 49,000 acres were harvested in 1948. This compares with 59,000 acres in 1947, the 10-year average of 75,000 acres and is the smallest acreage harvested in 73 years. The 1948 yield per acre of 115 bushels equalled that of 1947 and was well above the 10-year average of 104 bushels.

SOYBEAN CROP ABOVE AVERAGE

December 1 reports indicate a soybean crop of slightly over 3.5 million bushels in the state this year. A

crop of this size would be 2 percent greater than last year and 53 percent more than the 10-year average.

Favorable weather prevailed during the spring season during the time soybeans were planted. With the exception of localized areas, most growers had normal stands or better. The dry weather from mid-June until mid-July somewhat retarded the growth and development of the crop. Also, the damage from insects, especially army worms, was more severe than usual. Prior to November, the weather had been generally favorable for harvesting operations; however, since that date rain has delayed harvesting and in some instances reduced the quality and yield of the crop.

SMALL GRAIN CROP SHORT

The total acreage of small grain harvested for grain in 1948 was 23.4 percent less than in 1947 and total production was 28.6 percent less. Average yields per acre for all small grains were below 1947 except oats, which showed no change. Continuous heavy rains from mid-September 1947 until early April made planting difficult or impossible. The growing season for most of the acreage was much too short for full growth and yields averaged below what might have been expected had the season been normal.

PROSPECTIVE 1948 WHEAT CROP

December reports indicate 491,000 acres of wheat seeded for harvest in 1949. Although this is 15 percent more than the acreage seeded for the 1948 crop it represents about average seedings. Based on December conditions the 1949 crop is forecast at 7,856,000 bushels or about 30 percent larger than the relatively poor production in 1948.

FARM REPORT

published by the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
W. P. Callander, Assistant Chief
and the
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Division of Statistics
D. S. Coltrane, Commissioner of Agriculture

issued monthly through the
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh
Frank Parker, Statistician in Charge

PRIMARILY FOR DISTRIBUTION TO
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS
INFORMATION DIRECT FROM FARMERS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Raleigh, N. C.

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300
(PMGC)

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FORM BAE-12-48-7,500
PERMIT No. 1001

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE LIBRARY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DECEMBER 1948

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

FRUITS AND NUTS

Commercial apple production in North Carolina during 1948 is estimated at 976 thousand bushels. This is slightly over one-fourth larger than the 1947 crop, but 8 percent below the 10-year average production.

The production of peaches, commercial and non-commercial, in North Carolina amounted to 1,646,000 bushels in 1948. The 1948 crop was 43 percent less than 1947 and 23 percent less than the 10-year average production. The low production this year is attributed almost entirely to damages from the late spring freeze. Growers reported losses ranging from zero up to 100 percent. Damages from insects and diseases were no more than usual.

The 1948 pear crop is estimated at 209,000 bushels, or 30 percent less than the 1947 crop and 31 percent less than the 10-year average production. Unfavorable weather during the pollinating season is primarily responsible for this year's reduced crop.

Grape production at 5,600 tons in 1948 is the same as 1947, but 6 percent greater than the 10-year average. Grape production in the state is confined primarily to small vineyards for home consumption.

The production of pecans, from both improved and seedling varieties, is estimated at 2.8 million pounds. This is 35 percent larger than the 1947 crop and 7 percent larger than average production. The pecan crop, in most sections of the state, was damaged by the late spring freeze and by the hot-dry weather from mid-June to mid-July.

LESPEDeza SEED PRODUCTION

Production of lespedeza seed in North Carolina in 1948 is estimated

at 36 million pounds, or 7 percent larger than the 1947 crop. An increase in the yield per acre from 210 to 240 pounds is responsible for the higher production in 1948, since 10,000 less acres were harvested this year.

EGG PRODUCTION

Layers on North Carolina farms produced a total of 48 million eggs during November. This is around 10 percent or 6 million fewer eggs than were produced during October. Total egg production in November, this year, was 7 million above production during the same month in 1947.

The November monthly rate of lay per hen was 6.4 eggs compared with 5.5 eggs per hen for the same month last year. This higher rate of lay compared with last year reflects the effects of moderate temperatures during November, better feeding and closer culling practices.

Additions of maturing pullets to laying flocks increased the total number of layers on farms in November to 7,493,000 compared with 7,004,000 for the preceding month and 7,386,000 for November 1947.

MILK PRODUCTION ABOVE AVERAGE

Following the usual seasonal downward trend, milk production in the state during November showed a decline from the previous month's level. Total production during November was estimated at 116 million pounds, 15 million pounds less than during October. Production during the month compares with 113 million produced in November of last year and a 1937-46 November average of 106 million pounds.

Although milk production was

higher during November of this year than during the corresponding month in 1947, the number of all milk cows on farms was lower. There were 335 thousand cows on farms during November or 3 thousand less than during the same month last year. Production per cow during November averaged 328 pounds, comparing with 315 pounds a year ago. Grains, including millfeeds and concentrates, fed on December 1 of this year averaged 5.3 pounds per cow, the same as a year earlier.

U. S. DAIRY PRICES STRENGTHEN

Farmers' prices for dairy products strengthened after the September to October drop, the sharpest ever recorded for the time of year. Downward drifts began in late July after farmers' prices had reached a new high, allowing for seasonal adjustments. Since milk production usually declines in second half of year, prices usually rise during this period.

First significant decline among dairy products was made by butter, which was unusually high early in the summer. Margarine also dropped after a very sharp break in prices of cottonseed and soybean oils which reflected this year's large crop.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Statisticians of the Crop Reporting Service send you Christmas and New Year's Greetings, with the wish that prosperity may be yours during 1949.

Henry G. Brown W. C. Hinson, Jr.
Ray E. Converse Olaf Wakefield
Earl A. Finch Clyde Z. Willis
Frank Parker